484 because of conscription and construction of highways. It was difficult to find carriers for travel to other regions (e.g., along the Ya-an route), [492] and almost impossible to hire coolies for a trip to Liang-shan. At the time of our trip, draft horses were already able to travel on the route from Hsi-ch'ang to Chao-chüeh. Only a few horses, however, were making this trip, for many horse-tenders were unwilling to go even at a high price, and horses were not available in Hsi-ch'ang. The horses that were making the trip stopped at Chiao-pao-tzu in the vicinty of Chao-chüeh city. We sent for them twice but in vain. Later an I family living at Wan-ch'ang River consented to wait for us and accompany us from there to Chao-chüeh. Having engaged porters to carry our luggage to Wan-ch'ang River, we found upon arrival there that no one would go. After much trouble we were at last able to find a party at a high price. All in all /134/, communication difficulty was one of the main reasons for our long delay in Hsi-ch'ang, where we had to stay for more than ten days.

483 All the difficulties mentioned by Mr. Ch'ang were later verified in our trip. The Wa-tzu are strong and can carry heavy burdens for long distances, but they are by nature lazy and not interested in carrying things for the Chinese. Those hired by us walked very fast at first, but after a while, they complained repeatedly that they were exhausted and rested at every opportunity. The load they can carry, compared to that of the opium-addicted Chinese coolies, is naturally much greater, but so is their laziness. Therefore it was quite annoying for us to walk with them. In addition, the I have many enemies, and once they reach enemy territory, which they dare not enter, they immediately throw down the things and run away, without caring whether or not the travelers are able to find replacements. Several occurrences of this kind in the course of a day would cause considerable financial loss, to say nothing of the troubles involved. Another hinderance is that the sparse population of Liang-shan makes it difficult to find even a few porters, and large numbers are out of the question. Furthermore, all the Wa-tzu have to till the land and often are not willing to leave even for pay. (This is particularly true in the busy agricultural summer season). During the hot summer they are also reluctant to descend the mountains. For example, it was with the utmost difficulty that we were able to hire three carriers at Mo-shih chia, and even when the arrangement was made, it almost fell through. It is hard to believe that these conditions can exist anywhere but in Liang-shan.

484 In other regions modesty and affability on the part of the traveler